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# These Days . . . . . The Libertarian's Dilemma

By George E. Sokolsky

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MY OLD friend, Benjamin Ginzburg, is firm and ardent believer in human rights and liberties and if anyone

call him a Communist, he is a liar. Were Ginzburg in Soviet Russia, he would be arrested and sent to the mines for being a deviationist, a Jeffersonian Democrat, an enemy of the people and a spy for imperialistic United States. As he lives in the United States, the worst that can be said about him is that he devotes a masterly intellect to the advocacy of correct ideals without any sense of practical application and a naive interpretation of the course of events.



Sokolsky

In his new book, "Rededication to Freedom," Benjamin Ginzburg tries to establish that there is no Communist menace in the United States, that it is, in fact, a myth and that the FBI is the devil behind the myth, seeking to gain power by spreading fear throughout the land.

He goes back to the Dies Committee and correctly states that its chief investigator, Dr. J. B. Matthews, "himself had organized more so-called Communist-front organizations than any other single individual. . . . This is a correct statement and it is precisely because this is correct that J. B. Matthews knows more about such organizations and was able to expose his own handiwork so skillfully.

GINZBURG has the ability to state a fact correctly and then to draw the wrong conclusion therefrom because he has a bias which prompts him to believe that those who reject his pristine concept of liberty are evilly motivated, whereas actually their design is identical with his, namely, to save America from Marxism.

Ginzburg would achieve his end by permitting the Communists to do what he regards as small deeds, while he would by words educate the people not to believe what the Communists say. Meanwhile, they steal the atom bomb!

When Ginzburg talks about the FBI he becomes particularly bitter because he is dealing with police powers and he obviously does not like cops. He says:

"The significance of the FBI role in the setting of loyalty-security policy lies in the fact that the professional police mentality is by its nature unfit and dangerous for policy making in a democracy—just as unfit and just as dangerous as is the professional military mentality for such a task. The function of the policeman is to investigate on suspicion. In carrying out this function he naturally tends to believe the worst and to prejudge the guilt of the suspect. . . ."

The FBI sets no policies and has no authority under the law to set policies. It receives its instructions from Congress and from the Attorney General of the United States. It so happens that J. Edgar Hoover has won the esteem of the American people and that his personal influence is enormous but if

he were to evade the law, to become oppressive, to operate like, let us say, a Russian secret police organization, his personal popularity would melt like wet snow.

ACTUALLY, the FBI has carefully avoided performing many acts that have been attributed to it. Its job is to deal with espionage, not with the suppression of an authorized political party. Ginzburg is shocked by the fact that a good deal of what Elizabeth Bentley told the FBI on the occasion of her first confession could not be proved; it is astonishing that so much that Miss Bentley said led to such positive results because, after all, spies are not supposed to leave evidence of their espionage.

The FBI is the only professional organization within the United States which is charged by law with domestic counter-espionage. Outside the United States, this task is undertaken by the CIA. The United States has been, and is at war with Soviet Russia and Red China and their satellites. It is a war fought by unconventional weapons and unorthodox methods. Two of the most severe techniques of this war, now called "The Cold War," are espionage and infiltration into government and industrial organizations. While the war proceeds, dare we permit espionage and infiltration to continue?

Benjamin Ginzburg sincerely says, Yes! on the basis that it is not necessary to burn down the house to catch a spy; J. Edgar Hoover says, No! because the spies are burning down the house.

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